

Synopsis of Laytonville Meeting on 06.16.22

Maria Salinas and Tracey Harper, CalRecycle, attended the community meeting and provided the attached Laytonville Fact Sheet to participants, created by CalEPA, dated 06.16.22. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

Presenters: Bradley Angel, Pastor David Sanchez, and Sandy Karinen, former Water Board employee and more recently retired from EJ, DTSC. The floor was open and other community members spoke from the audience.

Government Representatives in addition to CalRecycle:

- Chris Watts, Water Board
- Charles Reed, RI North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Jim Shields, editor and publisher of the Mendocino County Observer, and district manager for the Laytonville County Water District
- Phil Choe, Mendocino County AQMD
- Warren Massey, Mendocino County AQMD
- John Haschack, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, District 3

Other: Kelly from KMUD, a local radio station.

Take Aways

- Community members are:
 - grateful for government representatives' participation in the meeting
 - concerned about incidences of cancer in their neighborhoods
 - interested in which entities are responsible for regulations and their roles.
 - They want accountability, better coordination amongst agencies, and to know who to contact about environmental concerns
- Mendocino County Board of Supervisor John Haschack committed to organizing a working group.

Notes

- For the most part, the meeting went well
- Bradley Angel and others were grateful for government's representation at the meeting. They expressed their gratitude several times
- The overarching topic was community members' concern about the "higher than normal" incidences of cancer in Laytonville
 - Community members cited several potential contributing factors:
 - A history of unregulated sites, Laytonville Landfill and an old burn dump
 - Saw Mills
 - Personal illegal dumping of toxic waste,
 - Unattended dumping of chrome plating chemicals from Renco,
 - Alleged dumping of transformers containing PCBs by P,G, & E
 - Logging, cattle ranching, lifestyle choices, etc.

They say that despite all of that, there are still too many people getting cancer in their neighborhoods, and they want to get a better understanding of what is contributing to the high cancer rates.

- Community members expressed numerous concerns about leachate. The statement was made repeatedly that repairing the landfill cap will not reduce the alleged contamination in the water.
- Sandy said she smells chlorine in the water and others echoed her comments.
- People expressed concerns stating PG&E dumped transformers resulting in PCB contamination. "Someone has got to go to these neighborhoods and find the extent of the problem."
- Remco, a chrome plating facility was located in the area. "Hex chrome was found up here." Jim Shields said there has been testing for hex chrome and PCB in water even if they are not required to test for that.
- There are concerns about drinking water wells. Jim Shields said they have tested wells.
- There were several questions about who is responsible for regulating the burn dump, land fill, and other things we talked about in the meeting
 - The Water Board explained their role
 - I explained that CalRecycle is committed to having a conversation with the LEA, Mendocino County regarding the burn dump.
 - I committed to providing an information sheet defining our (CalRecycle, Water, County, Air Quality) regulatory responsibilities.
- They want better coordination between agencies and awareness of what agencies are doing in their communities.
- They expressed their concern for Tribes and said they need a nontoxic home. Some people want the government to help people relocate. They expressed the need for financial support and new homes.
- They have concerns about the Rancheria and polluted land including chrome hex. Jim Shields: A Native American firm with nationwide representation did testing. An audience member said he wants independent testing.
- Bradley said that if they say something incorrect, "We can call them on it."
- The USEPA Region 9 has been in Laytonville, in past years, and wants to help.

Other Questions:

- What is the nature of what is going on at the dump?
- Is the new cap going to be effective?

Concern

- Erroneous Information was presented by community members at the meeting. Sandy Karinen, by her own admission, was presenting her "opinions." Shields emphasized the need for science and corrected several of her comments. However, Sandy made several comments that could be problematic and make things worse.